

In the Claims:

1-3 (Cancelled) ✓

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4. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying an agent that modulates sphingosine-1-phosphate lyase activity, comprising:

(a) contacting a candidate agent with a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(i) an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:468;

(ii) an amino acid sequence having at least 70% identity to a sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:468; and

(iii) an amino acid sequence having at least 90% identity to a sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:468;

A wherein said polypeptide has sphingosine-1-phosphate lyase activity; and wherein the step of contacting is carried out under conditions and for a time sufficient to allow the candidate agent to interact with said polypeptide; and

(b) subsequently measuring the ability of said polypeptide to degrade sphingosine-1-phosphate or a derivative thereof, relative to an ability in the absence of said candidate agent, and therefrom identifying an agent that modulates sphingosine-1-phosphate lyase activity.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of contacting is performed by incubating a cell expressing said polypeptide with the candidate agent, and wherein the step of measuring the ability to degrade sphingosine-1-phosphate is performed using an *in vitro* assay and a cellular extract.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5 wherein said cell has been transformed or transfected with a recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleotide as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7 ~~an expression vector according to claim 1.~~

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7-30 (Cancelled)